stages of negotiation. On completion of the formalities regarding the feestock supply agreements and acquisition of land, the project authorities expect the project to be commissioned in 44 months.

Sale of drugs at higher rates by Johnson and Johnson

† 189. SHRI MUNA WAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of causing loss to common consumer and Government to the tune of almost Rs.fifty crore has been registered by the CBI in January, 2002 agaist Johnson and Johnson, a famous pharmaceutical company, for selling drugs on higher rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No such case has been registered by CBI during January, 2002. However, it is a fact that CBI has registered a Regular Case RC-07/2001-SIU.XI on 24.12.2001 under Section 120-B IPC read with Section 420, IPC read with Section 7&10 of Essential Commodities Act and substantive offences thereunder against M/s N.R. Jet Enterprises Limited, Mahim, Mumbai through its Directors, M/s Johnson & Johnson Limited, Mumbai through its Directors & others on the allegation of causing loss to common consumer and Government to the tune of almost Rs.50 crores for selling drugs on higher rates.

Revival and Expansion of Fertilizer Units

190. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to revival of sick fertilizer units and expansion of the existing units;

(b) the steps taken in that direction during Ninth Five Year Plan and the programme drawn up thereon for Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any effort is being made to achieve self-sufficiencey in fertilizer;

(d) if so, the achievement made in that regard in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the projection made for the production of fertilizers in Tenth Five Year Plan, both in public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Action with regard to revival of sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in fertilizer sector is taken keeping in view the declared policy of the Government of India towards the public sector which is restructuring and reviving potentially viable PSUs and closing down those (PSUs) which cannot be revived, while fully protecting the interests of workers. As per the industrial policy resolution dated 24th July, 1991, no licence is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the county subject to environmental clearance. However, Public Sector Undertakings/Co-operative Societies under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers (DoF) have to obtain approval of the Government before undertaking such capital expenditure beyond their delegated power.

(c) In additon, to encourage investment in the fertilizer sector and thus increase fertilizer production, the following facilities/concessions have been made available to the fertilizer industry by the Government at present:-

(i) Deemed Export Benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive bidding.

(ii) Reasonable return on investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, at present applicable to existing urea capacity.

(iii) Concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

(iv) Import of capital goods for setting up of new fertilizer plants modernisation of existing units at a concessional rate of customs duty.

(d) The requirement of potassic fertilizers is met through imports as there are no known commercially viable sources of this fertilizer in the country. The production and consumption of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers in terms nutrients during the Ninth Five Year Plan are given below:

(In Lakh MTs)

YEAR	PRODUCTION			CONSUMPTION		
	N	P	TOTAL	N	P	TOTAL
1997-98	100.86	29.76	130.62	109.02	39.13	148.15
1998-99	104.69	31.41	136.10	113.54	41.12	154.66
1999-2000	107.27	33.99	141,26	115.92	47.98	163.90
2000-2001	109.62	37.43	147.05	109.20	42.15	151.35
2001-2002 (Estimated)	108.03	39.45	147,48	58.63*	23.47*	82.10*

*The figures are upto Kharif 2001.

(e) The projection made for production of fertilizer in the Tenth Five Year Plan both in Public & Private Sectors, based on 100% utilization of the existing capacity is given below:

(InLakhMTs)

YEAR	'N'	'P'	TOTAL
2002-2003	120.58	52.31	172.89
2003-2004	121.74	5231	174.05
2004-2005	121.74	5231	174.05
2005-2006	121.74	5231	174.05
2006-2007	12928	5231	18139

Consumption norms and recoveries from urea manufacturing units

191. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment has issued a notification on 5th November, 2001 revising input consumption norms, per ton of urea and imposed heavy recoveries on urea manufacturing units; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that a large number of fertilizer units have been facing closure on account of this notification as they are not in a position to bear the burden of such heavy recovery; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw this notification and if not, the reasons therefore?